

**STATE BOARD ADVISORY PANEL
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Arizona State Advisory Panel for Special Education held a meeting at Arizona Department of Education, 1535 W. Jefferson, Room 417, Phoenix, AZ on November 16, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Members Present

Nancy Allen
M. Diane Bruening
Susan Douglas, Co-chair
Molly Dries
Phyllis Green
Kathleen McCoy
Kathy McDonald
Megan McGlynn
Terisa Rademacher, Co-chair
Jane Ellen Reid, Vice-chairperson
Sue Tillis
Tona TreeTop
Kay B. Turner
Marta Urbina

Others Present

Lillie Sly, ADE
Christine Farley, State Board Office
Lynn Busenbark, ADE/ESS
Kacey Gregson, ADE/ESS
Joanne Phillips, ADE/ESS
Jeannette Zemeida, ADE/ESS

Members Absent

J'Anne Affeld
Rebecca Hall
Erik Jensen
William Smith

Minutes Approved (As Read)(As Amended)

Chairperson: _____

Signature

Date

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
1. Call to order.	Terisa Rademacher, Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.	1. None
2. Approval of September 21, 2004 minutes	Sue Tillis made a motion and seconded by Kay Turner to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2004 meeting.	2. Motion carried
3. Public comment.	Ms. Douglas welcomed the public in attendance. She explained to those present the procedures for making a comment. Anyone wishing to comment on an agenda item was asked to fill out a brief questionnaire stating which agenda item they wished to comment on. That person would then be called on when that item was discussed.	3. None
4. SEAP	<p>Ms. Rademacher disseminated a draft of the 2003-2004 Annual Report. After reviewing the report, Panel members suggested changes.</p> <p>Panel discussed SEAP brochure for parents. What is its purpose and when will it be ready for dissemination? Cathy McDonald informed Panel of progress. Panel discussed content and ways to disseminate.</p> <p>The Panel discussed putting draft minutes on SEAP website. The Panel decided to hold the minutes until they are approved.</p> <p>Sue Tillis asked a question regarding emergency certificates and highly qualified teachers—how will emergency certificates be affected by No Child Left Behind? The Panel decided to send a memo to the State Board for clarification.</p> <p>[Christy Farley arrived at the meeting later in morning and was able to answer Ms. Tillis's question. According to No Child Left Behind, teachers must be highly qualified by 2006. The State of Arizona will continue to issue emergency certificates, as it does now. Emergency certification is up to the school district. However, if a teacher is not "highly qualified" the district will be required to send a letter home to parents informing them that their child's teacher is not "highly qualified".]</p> <p>Attending SEAP members briefly introduced themselves as it was Molly Dries' first meeting.</p> <p>Megan McGlynn volunteered to attend State Board meetings. Ms. Phillips will introduce her to the Board at their next meeting.</p>	4. None
5. Due Process Hearing Rules	Dr. Lynn Busenbark updated the Panel on the Due Process Hearing Rules. There is a conflict between what the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS) wants to do and what the statutory language states. This has caused a glitch with the Attorney General's (AG) office. ADE/ESS is working with the Center for Disability Law to draft statutory language changes to allow ADE/ESS to move forward with the proposed changes.	

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
6. Self-Assessment	The Annual Performance report is due in March. Dr. Busenbark provided the Panel with a draft of the data which will be included in the report. Dr. Busenbark and the Panel discussed the contents of the document which included complaints investigated by ADE/ESS, mediation hearings and due process hearings, as well as graduation and dropout rates for students with disabilities. Dr. Busenbark fielded questions from the Panel.	4. None.
7. Exceptional Student Services	<p>Ruth Solomon, Associate Superintendent of Education Policy, read a memo she received from Terry Martin at the AG's office. An upcoming ABA conference will deal with "IDEA timelines on special education for all kids changing schools; have a definition of 'ward of the state'; and address a court of surrogates when a child is a ward, not necessarily excluding schools from appointing. At least one rep of the child may attend an IEP conference if the child is a ward of the court in addition to the surrogate or parent." Ms. Solomon felt that this would be good news for surrogate children. This will cover any child that is a ward of the state.</p> <p>Lily Sly, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services & Resources spoke to the Panel. Two of the hottest issues that the Dept. of Education is currently dealing with are Graduation Requirements and Diplomas. Ms. Sly has received numerous letters from schools, parents and parents. Ms. Sly asked the Panel to forward any concerns they had or received from other constituents to her office.</p> <p>Dr. Busenbark announced that ESS is close to being fully staffed.</p> <p>ESS staff and the Panel had a discussion concerning standard accommodations for state testing and the definition of "standard" versus "nonstandard" accommodations. The discussion centered on state and school concerns and interpretations as there is no federal definition set in writing for standard accommodations.</p> <p>There is a newly signed agreement that drives the transition from early intervention (Part C) into the preschool program (Part B). There are changes from the previous agreement. The previous agreement allowed a transition from 2 years and 9 months up to 3 years and 8 months of age. The new agreement eliminates that – the transition must occur before the child's third birthday. This means that the school needs to have the child's records and at least have the child's initial IEP developed before their third birthday.</p> <p>Cheryl Blackwell and the Early Childhood Program will be responsible for training schools on the new agreement.</p> <p>Molly Dries, SEAP member, Dept. of Economic Security explained to the Panel what Part C is doing to ensure that early intervention coordinators train their providers. Ms. Dries explained that schools will be notified in February about which students will be turning 3 within the following 16 months. They would then be updated again in September.</p>	5. None

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	<p>Dr. Busenbark explained the dispute resolution portion of the new agreement. Dispute resolution options that are already in place will be utilized versus creating a new team.</p> <p>Dr. Busenbark suggested that SEAP and the Advisory Panel for Part B meet together once a year. Ms. Dries explained the representation on the Part B panel. The Panel agreed that it would be mutually beneficial for the panels to meet. Possible issues to share would be transition from early childhood to preschool, Medicaid and Child Find. Ms. Rademacher suggested that Ms. Dries take the SEAP invitation to the Part B Panel. It was suggested that a neutral location be selected sometime in June.</p> <p>Ms. Phillips announced that the SEAP vacancy in "Representatives of a Vocational, Community, or Business Organization Concerned with the Provision of Transition Services to Children with Disabilities" has been filled. Johanna Bookbinder, City of Scottsdale Adapted Recreation Services, will be joining the Panel.</p> <p>Ms. Phillips gave the Panel the meeting dates for the Mountain Plains Regional Resources Center (MPRRC) teleconference calls. The calls are free. Panel members can call in from work or home to join the calls. Panel members can also come to the Dept. of Education and ESS will set up a conference room to accommodate anyone interested in listening to the conference calls. The calls will take place on the following dates: Jan. 12, 2005 [Topics: Alternative Assessment, Graduation and High Stakes Testing], March 30, 2005 [Topics: School Dropout Prevention, Resiliency and School District Programs for Dropout Prevention] and June 1, 2005 [Topic: Accessibility to the General Education Program]. The calls begin at 12 noon MST and last approximately 1 ½ hours.</p> <p>On December 13, 11:00 am the National Center for Educational Outcomes (NCEO) will hold a teleconference on "Access and Alignment: The Grade Level Content for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities". Ms. Philips told the Panel that if they were interested in listening in she would forward further information once she received it.</p>	
8. Diplomas	<p>Nancy Allen and Jane Ellen Reid who are members of the Graduation Task Force reported on the October 13, 2004 meeting.</p> <p>It is possible that the task force may be disbanded. "No Child Left Behind" does not require a high stakes test; Arizona legislation set this mandate. As of the November 16 SEAP meeting the Department of Education was waiting for an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding the special education rule.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the importance of receiving a diploma – how this will impact schools and students who cannot pass the AIMS test.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	<p>Ms. Reid summarized what SEAP would like to recommend to the Graduation Task Force:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The diploma should have no distinction. The transcript could be used to determine whether or not the student passed AIMS.2. Without a standard diploma, IDEA eligibility does not end. A special education student is covered until age 22.3. Some students may decide to drop out of school if they can't take the electives that they want (electives may be job preparation opportunities) and they know they won't be able to pass AIMS. <p>In response to parent concerns, the Superintendent's office has created a formal response to be sent out to those individuals who contact the Department of Education. It addresses their concerns regarding graduation and lets them know that the Department is currently waiting for the AG's opinion to come out before it proceeds with this issue.</p>	
9. Work Session	<p>Ms. Rademacher led the Panel in going through the notes from the Sept. 21, 2004 goal setting meeting. The Panel reviewed the issues under the categories of "Unfinished Business" and "Emerging Issues/Questions" to decide which issues SEAP would like to focus on for the next two years. The following strategies will spearhead SEAP activities for the next two years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compile and disseminate information about effective instructional practice2. Create operational procedures that support clear communication3. Develop effective recommendations specific to special education issues <p>Once the Panel had identified the issues they wanted to cover, Panel members in attendance chose the subcommittee they would like to serve on.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Diane Bruening, Kathleen McCoy, Megan McGlynn, Kay Turner2. Kathy McDonald3. Molly Dries, Phyllis Green, Tona TreeTop, Marta Urbina <p>Panel members who were absent will have the opportunity to choose a subcommittee at the January 18, 2005 SEAP meeting.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
9. Next meeting and agenda items.	The following items were proposed for the agenda for January 18, 2005 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Graduation/Diploma◆ Subcommittees◆ Annual Performance Report◆ SEAP Annual Report◆ By-law Review◆ Early Childhood (Cheryl Blackwell)	8. None.
10. Adjournment	Seeing no further business, Ms. Rademacher adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.	9. Adjournment.